United Nations A/58/L.13

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
3 November 2003

Original: English

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 44
Culture of peace

Philippines: draft resolution

Interreligious dialogue and cooperation

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the importance and relevance of the themes promoted by its resolutions on dialogue among civilizations, in particular its resolutions 53/22 of 4 November 1998, 54/113 of 10 December 1999, 55/23 of 13 November 2000 and 56/6 of 9 November 2001,

Recalling also its resolution 57/6 of 4 November 2002, in which the General Assembly invited Member States to continue to place greater emphasis on and expand their activities promoting a culture of peace and non-violence at the national, regional and international levels and to ensure that peace and non-violence were fostered at all levels,

Recalling further its resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003, in which the General Assembly recognized that continued interreligious dialogues and the promotion of religious harmony contributed to the prevention of armed conflict,

Recognizing the commitment of all religions to peace and harmony,

Encouraged by the various initiatives and efforts at organizing interreligious dialogues aimed at assisting the United Nations and other international and national organizations in achieving peace, harmony and understanding around the world, such as the First Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, held in Astana on 23 and 24 September 2003,

1. *Decides* to establish an Open-ended Working Group to examine the contributions of interreligious dialogue and cooperation in strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to promote international peace and harmony;

2. *Recommends* that the Open-ended Working Group explore the possibility of instituting a process and/or establishing a mechanism within the United Nations

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system with the objective of harnessing interreligious dialogue and cooperation to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to promote international peace and harmony;

3. *Requests* the Open-ended Working Group to submit a report on its work before the end of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Open-ended Working Group with such assistance and services as may be required to carry out its tasks.